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AMERICA'S NEED FOR AN ENFORCED PEACE

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The program of the United States must be decided by the experience of the past generations and the prospect of the future. The world, large and small countries together, has become predatory. From the discovery of America, 1492, to the Congress of Berlin, 1878, the lands of Europe had acquired and held 14,000,000 square miles of colonial territory. From 1878 to 1914, these countries had added 13,000,000 square miles of colonies. Add "spheres of influence" and the colonial area acquired from the Congress of Berlin to the ravage and rapine of Belgium had equalled the area acquired of in four centuries from Columbus to Bismarck.

The European world has not only become predatory in the last generation, it has all there is to be had except three areas. The first of these is the Moslem area from Morocco across the south coast of the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Turkey, Arabia and Persia to Afghanistan and Beluchistan.

The present war is, in large measure, being fought to decide the final fate of this area, much of which has already been staked out, Morocco, Algeria and Tunis to France, Tripoli to Italy, Egypt to England, Persia divided between Russia and England; but any and all these territories may be shifted when the conflict is won. China is the second area which is within the ambition and calculation of the lands engaged in this war from Germany to Japan, with all that falls between. The third area whose possible acquisition the colonial and predatory publications and newspapers of Europe discuss is Latin America from the Rio Grande south to Cape Horn.

Of these three areas, the Moslem tract from Cape Spartel to the highlands that look down on the valley of the Indus, has been preserved by the jealousies of predatory Europe. Whichever party to the present conflict wins will divide the region. But for the United States, and the differences between European countries, China would have been divided in 1900. But for the United States, and the United States alone, Latin America would have been con-

quered as easily as was Mexico half a century ago. Until the United States intervened, Maximilian seemed secure in his Mexican Empire.

This predatory appetite which has doubled European colonies in the last 38 years will neither change nor be satisfied with current colonial possessions. The same forces which have rolled resistless over 13,000,000 to 14,000,000 square miles in the past generation, will dispose of 12,000,000 square miles, now left, whose populations are unable to defend the lands in which they live, exactly as, since 1878, a like area has been annexed. Of the 12,000,000 square miles still open, two-thirds, 8,000,000 square miles, stretch from Patagonia to Mexico. Two years ago, two short years ago, people would have argued that treaties, civilization and Christianity would protect these weaker lands. No one will urge this today. The vast movement of troops across the seas, world-wide campaigns have shown that all the earth is open to the armies of Europe.

The United States has protected Latin America for 95 years, and the centennial of the Monroe Doctrine will find it needing defence more than in 1821. The United States itself will be left more accessible to invasion than in all its history. If troops can be carried from Vladivostock to Marseilles, what a trifle to carry an army across the Atlantic.

But the United States should not arm for itself alone. If it does, its purpose must be selfish and may be, probably will be, futile. The peace of the world is the lofty end for which the United States should arm. Through a League to Enforce Peace, with an American army and navy sufficient to make such a league overpowering, the United States should have as its program in international relations not its own narrow safety but the security of humanity. Secure this and all is secure.

In July, 1914, war and peace quivered in the trembling balances of fate. Had the United States and all nations now neutral been ready to demand that Serbia be given the investigation and arbitration this little land demanded, the Austrian troops would not, in all probability, have crossed the Danube. Had the powers today neutral been so organized as a league that they could unite in demanding that a neutralized state, like Belgium, must not be attacked, German troops would have hesitated at the Belgian frontiers, and this hesitation would have given peace more friends than had war in each and all the lands now at strife. The Monroe Doctrine is noth-

itng but neutralization against Europe. As a military proposition, would be cheaper and safer for the United States to underwrite the risks of the world against war, than to insure all the risks of two continents, as for a century past, and infinitely nobler. Mere national safety, while all the world is ablaze, is ignoble. The only program in international relations which is worthy of the United States is the peace of the world, through a League to Enforce Peace such as is urged by a growing organization in this country and has support and advocacy in every belligerent and neutral country.